

## Message Text

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21

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01

VO-03 A-01 OPR-02 AID-20 IGA-01 /091 W

----- 093623

O 110658Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2532

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCPACFLT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, SN

SUBJ: REFUGEE SHIPS DEPART SINGAPORE

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: FOUR MORE REFUGEE SHIPS DEPARTED SINGAPORE FOR GUAM AND SUBIC AMID ERRENEOUS PRESS STORIES THAT US SHIPS PROVIDING ESCORT. STORY BASED ON MINDEF SPOKESMAN AND IS POSSIBLE PLOY TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY TO US FOR ANY DISASTER AT SEA. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE TO MEET WITH GOS MAY 11 TO URGE REMAINING REFUGEES BE ALLOWED ASHORE TO PROCESS FOR RESETTLEMENT, BUT WITH LITTLE HOPE OF SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOUR REFUGEE SHIPS DEPARTED SINGAPORE MORNING OF MAY 11 WITH TOTAL OF 1,142 PERSONS ABOARD. SINCE AFTERNOON OF MAY 8, ELEVEN VESSELS WITH 3,838 REFUGEES HAVE DEPARTED; EIGHT CONFIDENTIAL

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VESSELS WITH 2,185 NOW HEADED FOR SUBIC AND THREE WITH 1,653 HEADED FOR GUAM. APPROXIMATELY 3,662 REMAINING REFUGEES EXPECTED DEPART AS SOON AS REGROUPING AND RESUPPLY BY GOS COMPLETED. SHIPS' NAME, NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD, DEPARTURE TIMES AND

DESTINATIONS REQUESTED FROM AND NOW SUPPLIED BY GOS. ALL SHIPS TO DATE HEADED FOR GUAM OR SUBIC. THIS INFORMATION BEING FORWARDED BY NAVATTACHE TO CINCPAC FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) OPERATIONS IF NEEDED.

2. SUNDAY'S STRAITS TIMES IN LEAD STORY SAID, QUOTE THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT WARSHIPS OF THE U.S. SEVENTH FLEET WILL PROVIDE AN "ESCORT" TO THE REFUGEE SHIPS ON THEIR WAY TO THE PHILIPPINES. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY STATEMENT THE SEVENTH FLEET "HAD BEEN DEPLOYED IN THE HIGH SEAS TO HELP THE SHIPS IN CASE OF DIFFICULTIES". THIS FOLLOWED A REQUEST FROM THE SEVENTH FLEET--RELAYED TO THE MINISTRY BY THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE--FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE REFUGEE SHIPS LEAVING SINGAPORE WATERS UNQUOTE.

3. THIS APPEARS TO BE DELIBERATE EXAGGERATION BY GOS OF EMBASSY'S DAO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CITED PARA ONE FOR SAR CONTINGENCY AND POSSIBLE PLOY TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY FROM SINGAPORE TO US FOR ANY DISASTER AT SEA.

4. EMBASSY RESPONDING PRESS QUERIES AS FOLLOWS:  
EMBASSY REQUESTED AND GOS IS PROVIDING THE NAMES AND DESTINATIONS OF REFUGEE VESSELS LEAVING SINGAPORE. U.S. SHIPS ARE NOT PROVIDING ESCORT.

5. STRAITS TIMES STORY HEADLINED "REFUGEES: SAIGON REQUEST TO SINGAPORE." STORY SAID THAT MINDEF RECEIVED CABLE MAY 10 FROM SOUTH VIETNAM REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT SAYING THAT ALL VIETNAMESE REFUGEES NOW IN SHIPS OFF SINGAPORE ARE WELCOMED TO GO BACK TO SOUTH VIETNAM AND ASKED SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ALL THOSE WHO WANT TO RETURN TO SOUTH VIETNAM. EMBASSY UNAWARE OF ANY REFUGEES DESIRING TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION THAT GOS HAS RESPONDED TO THIS REQUEST.

6. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE KADRY MEETING WITH PERM SEC MINDEF TAY SEOW HUAH AND DEPUTY SECRETARY MFA TAN BOON SENG AT 15:30  
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LOCAL TIME MAY 11 TO DISCUSS ENTIRE REFUGEE SITUATION. KADRY REPORTS THAT FOLLOWING DISCUSSION BETWEEN SINGAPORE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN TOMMY KOH AND UN OFFICIALS THAT KOH TALKED TO PRIME MINISTER LEE AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMED THE UN THAT HE "WAS READY TO COOPERATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE". LEE GAVE ASSURANCES THAT ALL VESSELS WILL BE PROVIDED SUFFICIENT FOOD AND WATER AND THAT KADRY WOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS TO REFUGEES ON ST. JOHN'S ISLAND.

7. KADRY INFORMED DCM THAT DURING FORTHCOMING MEETING HE WOULD REQUEST GOS TO GIVE HIM ACCESS TO REMAINING VESSELS IN HARBOR AS WELL AS ST. JOHN'S ISLAND AND URGE GOS TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO COME ASHORE TO BE PROCESSED BY UNHCR, ICEM AND EMBASSIES AND

HIGH COMMISSIONS IN SINGAPORE. KADRY SAID HE WOULD PROMISE GOS THAT UNHCR WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP RESETTLE THE REFUGEES IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND WOULD PROVIDE FUNDS TO HELP TAKE CARE OF REFUGEES WHILE IN SINGAPORE. IN LIGHT OF EVERYTHING HE HAS HEARD SINCE ARRIVAL IN SINGAPORE, KADRY DOUBTFUL WHETHER GOS WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THESE APPEALS. CRONK

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## Message Attributes

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JAKARTA  
BANGKOK  
KUALA LUMPUR  
CINCPAC

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